

Appl. No. 09/316,851
Amndt. Dated 07/01/2005
Reply to Office Action of May 6, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action mailed May 6, 2005. Claims 1, 3-8, 13, 16-22 and 48-50 have been allowed. On June 30, 2005, the undersigned attorney and Examiner conducted a telephone conference to discuss the allowability of claims 37 and 41 set forth above. Examiner DeSanto has tentatively agreed that claims 37 and 41, as amended, are in condition for allowance and has agreed to enter the Amendment.

Hence, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of all pending claims.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 35, 37-46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barwick (U.S. Patent No. 5,700,240) in view of Peterson (WO 93/18802). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because neither Barwick nor Peterson, alone or in combination, describe or suggest each and every limitation set forth in newly amended independent claims 37 and 41. Hence, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

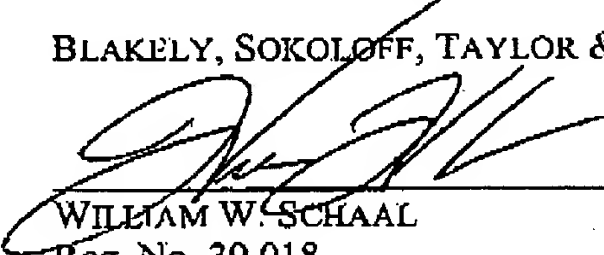
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the outstanding §103(a) rejection and allow all of the pending claims. Allowance of these claims at Examiner's earliest convenience is respectfully solicited.

In order to further facilitate prosecution of the subject application, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at the phone number listed below if any actions are needed to facilitate conclusion of the prosecution of the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: July 1, 2005


WILLIAM W. SCHAAL
Reg. No. 39,018

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 CFR 1.84)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being:

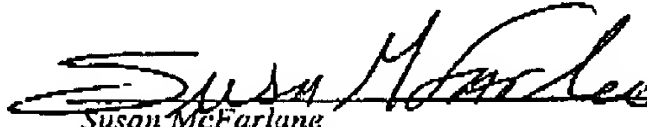
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Susan McFarlane
Date 07/01/2005